

REMARKS

In the Official Action mailed on **14 November 2005**, the Examiner reviewed claims 1-20. Claims 17-20 were withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention. Claims 8, 9, 15, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1-5, 8, 9, 11-13, 15, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hill et al (USPN 6,360,539, hereinafter “Hill”). Claims 6 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hill, in view of Ross (USPN 6,396,382, hereinafter “Ross”).

Restriction requirement

Restriction was required to one of the following inventions:

- I. Claims 1-16 drawn to FIGs. 1-4B, class 337, subclass 36
- II. Claims 17-20 drawn to FIG. 5, class 438, subclass 48.

Applicant confirms election of invention I without traverse. Claims 1-16 read on invention I. Claims 17-20 have been canceled without prejudice.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claims 8, 9, 15, and 16 were rejected as being indefinite.

Claims 8 and 15 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 9 and 16 have been amended to delete the “angled” limitation.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Dependent claims 5 and 13 were rejected as being anticipated by Hill. Examiner avers that it is well known to use gold on microelectric contacts.

Applicant respectfully points out that the present invention uses a **partial release operation** during the sputtering of gold in order to ensure the separation of sputtered gold on the contact head sidewall and the signal lines (see FIG. 3C

and paragraph [0040] of the instant application). This is beneficial because it prevents a short circuit between contact head and the signal lines. There is nothing within Hill, either explicit or implicit, which suggests using a partial release operation during the sputtering of gold in order to ensure the separation of sputtered gold on the contact head sidewall and the signal lines.

Accordingly, Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 12 to clarify that the present invention uses a partial release operation during the sputtering of gold in order to ensure the separation of sputtered gold on the contact head sidewall and the signal lines. These amendments find support in FIG. 3C and in paragraph [0040] of the instant application. Dependent claims 5 and 13 have been canceled without prejudice.

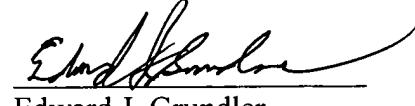
Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 12 as presently amended are in condition for allowance. Applicant also submits that claims 2-4, 6-7, and 9-11, which depend upon claim 1, and claims 14 and 16, which depend upon claim 12, are for the same reasons in condition for allowance and for reasons of the unique combinations recited in such claims.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted that the present application is presently in form for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By


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